

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2019**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the Wednesday, January 2, 2019, Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said. The other members in attendance were Barbara Ghoston and Ralph Simek. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. Staff members present were Executive Director Matt Lake, Financial Advisor Karl Cender, Attorney James Meyer and staff secretary Liz Bushemi. Also present were Town Councilwoman Chrissy Barron, Town Manager Bruce Spires and resident Bob Cotton.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF 2019 OFFICERS

Ralph Simek made a motion to nominate L.J. “Bud” Crist as president of the Stormwater Management Board for 2019, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There were no other nominations for president. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to retain the other current officers – Ralph Simek as vice president and herself as secretary for the year 2019; the motion was seconded by Mr. Simek. There were no other nominations. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the December 4, 2018 SWMB meeting. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting held December 4, 2018, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS APPROVAL

Also included in the agenda packet were copies of the accounts payable registers from December 11, 2018 and December 27, 2018. Ralph Simek made a motion to accept the claims on the accounts payable registers from December 11, 2018 and December 27, 2018, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Matt Lake said the 67th Avenue & Massachusetts Street project was completed, and the invoices were sent to NIRPC for reimbursement.

Regarding the Windy Hill Court project, Matt said the project is 85-95% complete, with the culvert already installed; they will blanket and seed and coordinate with neighbors to complete the back area as weather permits.

Bud Crist said the fall, 2018, stormwater assessment in the amount of \$913,579.89 was received from the Lake County Treasurer in late December. Matt said railroads and pipelines will be billed for 2018 stormwater fees. Karl Cender said a percentage of the fall assessment received will be put into Fund 627 for the Meadowdale Storage project, and he will notify the clerk-treasurer of the amount to transfer to the construction fund.

Mr. Crist also said the 2019 budgets would have to be amended to cover 2019 pay raises for the stormwater employees, and Karl Center will take care of working with the clerk-treasurer to add these salary amounts.

Mr. Crist said this is the 15th year the SWMB has been in existence with officers; the board was created in 2004 and officers first appointed in 2005. Mrs. Ghoston said the board was not formalized until fees were determined, and this has been a great venture for her since 2006. She had learned about stormwater infrastructure for towns and cities and Rule 13 requirements, and it has been a good experience for her. When residents ask her about stormwater, she is able to answer their questions and tell them about what the Stormwater Utility has been doing. She said it has been a journey, and Stormwater Utility has a fantastic director and good people who work for the department and the town.

NEW BUSINESS

Matt said they are still waiting on permits from the Army Corps of Engineers for replacing the culvert at Bon Aire Lake. Public meetings will be held with residents along the lake, and the project will then be put out for bid. Resident Bob Cotton said people have been asking if the project is still on target, and Matt said yes. Matt said Stormwater Utility intends to use another contractor for chemical applications to the lake next year, and dye treatments will be continued. Mr. Cotton said he joined the Izaak Walton League in Griffith and is working on becoming a volunteer stream monitor. Matt said he is a Volunteer Water Monitoring Instructor through the Hoosier Riverwatch program, and a program can be held at Stormwater Resource Center in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crist said the Stormwater Utility office and all non-emergency town offices will be closed on Monday, January 21, 2019, for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

The next SWMB meeting is Tuesday, February 5, 2019, at 4:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center.

There being no further business, Ralph Simek made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston; the meeting was adjourned at 4:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Bushemi
Staff Secretary